

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Previously Presented)** A system for managing a value chain, comprising:

a planning application operable to receive planning data from a plurality of entities included in a value chain and to automatically generate a plan according to the planning data, at least two of the entities not directly communicating planning data to one another; and

a manager application operable to:

receive the plan and automatically identify one or more exceptions in the plan;

communicate planning data relating to the exceptions to one or more of the entities;

receive instructions from one or more of the entities regarding how the exceptions are to be resolved; and

automatically modify the planning data in response to the instructions.

2-5. **(Canceled)**

6. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the planning application comprises a supply chain planning engine, the plurality of entities comprise enterprises, and the plan comprises a supply chain plan for at least a portion of a supply chain including the enterprises.

7. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the exceptions comprises an excess or lack of supply of an item.

8. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, wherein the planning data comprises data selected from the group consisting of demand data, supply data, inventory data, and capacity data.

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Original)** The system of Claim 1, further comprising an electronic marketplace that supports the planning application and the manager application.

11. **(Original)** The system of Claim 10, wherein the marketplace comprises a web server operable to communicate the planning data relating to the exceptions to one or more entities in the value chain.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A method for managing a value chain, comprising:

receiving planning data from a plurality of entities included in a value chain, at least two of the entities not directly communicating planning data to one another;

automatically generating a plan according to the planning data;

automatically identifying one or more exceptions in the plan;

communicating planning data relating to the exceptions to one or more of the entities;

receiving instructions from one or more of the entities regarding how the exceptions are to be resolved; and

automatically modifying the planning data in response to the instructions.

13-16. **(Canceled)**

17. **(Original)** The method of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of entities comprise enterprises and the plan comprises a supply chain plan for at least a portion of a supply chain including the enterprises.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 12, wherein at least one of the exceptions comprises an excess or lack of supply of an item.

19. **(Original)** The method of Claim 12, wherein the planning data comprises data selected from the group consisting of demand data, supply data, inventory data, and capacity data.

20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Previously Presented)** Software for managing a value chain, the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable, when executed, to:

receive planning data from a plurality of entities included in a value chain, at least two of the entities not directly communicating planning data to one another;

automatically generate a plan according to the planning data;

automatically identify one or more exceptions in the plan;

communicate planning data relating to the exceptions to one or more of the entities;

receive instructions from one or more of the entities regarding how the exceptions are to be resolved; and

automatically modify the planning data in response to the instructions.

22-25. (Canceled)

26. **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the plurality of entities comprise enterprises and the plan comprises a supply chain plan for at least a portion of a supply chain including the enterprises.

27. **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein at least one of the exceptions comprises an excess or lack of supply of an item.

28. **(Original)** The software of Claim 21, wherein the planning data comprises data selected from the group consisting of demand data, supply data, inventory data, and capacity data.

29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Previously Presented)** A system for managing a value chain, comprising:

means for receiving planning data from a plurality of entities included in a value chain, at least two of the entities not directly communicating planning data to one another;

means for automatically generating a plan according to the planning data;

means for automatically identifying one or more exceptions in the plan;

means for communicating planning data relating to the exceptions to one or more of the entities;

means for receiving instructions from one or more of the entities regarding how the exceptions are to be resolved; and

means for automatically modifying the planning data in response to the instructions.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A system for managing a value chain, comprising:

a planning application operable to:

receive planning data from a plurality of entities included in a value chain, at least two of the entities not directly communicating planning data to one another;

receive set-up information from one or more of the entities, the set-up information including characteristics of the value chain; and

automatically generate a plan according to the planning data; and

a manager application operable to:

receive the plan and automatically identify one or more exceptions in the plan;

automatically communicate a notification regarding the existence of an exception to one or more of the entities;

receive a request for information about the exception from one or more of the entities in response to the notification;

automatically communicate planning data relating to the exception to one or more of the entities in response to receiving the request, the manager application controlling access to the planning information based on a permissibility framework;

receive instructions from one or more of the entities regarding how the exceptions are to be resolved; and

automatically modify the planning data in response to the instructions.

32-33. **(Canceled)**